

## Peer Review of Scientific Information

Tinian Monarch (*Monarcha takatsukasae*) Draft Species Status Assessment Report

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### About the Document

**Title:** Tinian Monarch (*Monarcha takatsukasae*) Draft Species Status Assessment Report

**Purpose:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is drafting a Species Status Assessment (SSA) Report to inform an evaluation of the status of the Tinian monarch under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The SSA Report documents the Service's comprehensive evaluation of the biological status of the Tinian monarch and its overall viability, considering the species' needs, causes and effects to its biological status, the current conditions of the species, and forecasts future conditions. Public inquiries may be directed to the agency contact listed below.

**Estimated Dissemination Date:** July, 2018

**Estimated Peer Review Timeframe:** December-January, 2017

**Type of review:** Influential

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### About the Peer Review Process

The Service will conduct an external peer review of the scientific background information used in the SSA Report. The primary disciplines or expertise that are needed for this peer review include but are not limited to: knowledge of the ecology and biology of the Tinian monarch; familiarity with the invasive brown treesnake; and forest ecology of Tinian or the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Service will solicit comments from at least three independent scientific reviewers who will submit individual comments in written form. Peer reviewers will be selected by the Service. We will solicit reviews from experts who are willing to commit to providing an objective review within the needed time frame. Reviewers will be selected by the Service from specialists in the relevant areas of expertise. We will avoid selecting peer reviewers who are likely to experience personal gain or loss as a result of the Service's decision to list or not list the Tinian monarch. Service employees will not be used for this peer review.

The Service will provide each peer reviewer with information necessary to complete the peer review. However, we will ask the peer reviewers to determine whether the relevant data were considered and whether they were considered appropriately. We will also ask them to evaluate uncertainty and the strength of the data and conclusions. Deadline for receipt of reviews will be clearly stated.

**Will the public and/or scientific or professional societies be asked to nominate peer reviewers?:** No

**Estimated Start Date of Peer Review:** December 1, 2017

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### **About Public Participation**

This peer review plan is made available on this website to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review. If the SSA report is used to support a classification determination, the public will then have the opportunity to comment on that proposed rule or finding when it is published. The Service will not be providing public comments to the peer reviewers before they conduct their review. The public is invited to submit comments on this peer review plan by sending emails to the agency contact listed below. The Service will summarize in the final decision document, and make publicly available, copies of each individual independent peer review letter

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### **Contact**

Call Mike Richardson at 808-792-9448 for additional information regarding this peer review plan.

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